

THE PENALTY OF CARELESSNESS

By S. W. English,
Fire Prevention Expert.

Every time you hear the cry of "Fire!" you can be almost absolutely safe in thinking that someone has been careless. Fires don't happen. They are the inevitable result of combinations of preventable things. When analyzed to the last equation it will be found that carelessness is the root whence spring nearly all fires.

What a penalty industry pays to carelessness! Fire is the great destroyer. The wealth of a generation can be wiped out in but a brief hour.

Why not fight fires before they start? Why not so conduct your habits and so keep your premises that when the fire demon wants to offer your savings as a sacrifice he will pass you by, just as those of Egypt of old were passed over when the sign they had been told to place over their doors, were seen?

Too often when those who are responsible from fire cry out they are the victims of bad luck, they are but paying the natural penalty for their own carelessness.

If you want to keep down your fire insurance rates, wage eternal warfare against those things that ever breed fires.

RURAL SCHOOL TERM SHOULD BE EXTENDED

By P. P. Claxton,
U. S. Commissioner of Education.

In most States school days for country children are fewer than for city children. The average length of school term in cities of the United States is one hundred and eighty-five days; in rural communities one hundred and thirty-eight days, a difference of forty-seven days. In some States the difference is much greater than this average. In many counties the average length of the rural school term is less than one hundred days, and in some districts it is less. On the other hand, in the States of California, New York and Connecticut, the country schools are in session one hundred and eighty days in a year, and in several other States almost as long. The country schools of Rhode Island are in session one hundred and ninety days in a year.

If all children are to have an equal opportunity for education we must even up the school terms of the country and give to all country children at least as many days as are now given to city children. One hundred and eighty-five days of schooling a year for all children will not be too much. There are countries in which the schools, both for city and country, are in session from two hundred and twenty to two hundred and fifty days or more in the year. American children need as much education as those of any other country, and this applies to the rural as well as urban districts.

AN AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

By T. N. Carver,
Professor of Economics, Harvard University.

Every city has its chamber of commerce or its Board of Trade. The purpose of such an organization is to study economic and business opportunities of the city and promote enterprises which will help to build the city. Does any one know of a good and sufficient reason why every rural neighborhood ought not have a similar organization?

In Germany they already have such organizations. They are generally called the "Landwirtschaftsrath" or agricultural council. Some students of the problem of rural organization are strongly of the opinion that such an agricultural council is necessary before much can be done for the bettering of rural credit or the marketing of farm products. There is no object, for example, in having more capital in a farming neighborhood unless the farmers know without any guess-work just how to use that capital so as to increase the production and the profit of their farms. If all the leading farmers of a neighborhood would lay their heads together and talk over the situation and study the opportunities for new investment, they would be less likely to make mistakes than if they work secretly, as separate individuals.

CIVILIZATION'S GREATEST TRAGEDY.

Extract from article by W. D. Lewis, president Texas Farmers' Union, opposing woman's suffrage:

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1909	553,345.20
1910	607,390.23
1911	785,133.57
1912	1,008,666.37
1913	1,187,904.25
1914	1,287,124.82
1915	1,319,456.66
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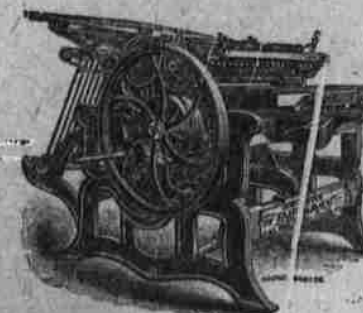
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